



From a Drawing by Dean Babcock

BULLETIN

Issued for the Information of Members of the

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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ROBERT STERLING YARD
Executive Secretary

FALL'S NATIONAL PARKS POLICY FULLY REVEALED

Wants huge Recreational System of little Campgrounds at Sacrifice of the Scenic Distinction and the Complete Conservation of America's World-Famous System of Nature's Masterpieces

TOUCH NOT THIS TRADE-MARK

A Business-Maker in America, and a National Income-Producer from Abroad, the Trade-Mark "National Parks of America" is fast becoming as Famous, the world over, as "The Alps." Do Nothing to Impair its Value.

Our National Parks System has become the world's model.

Canada followed this nation's example, and now has six fine national parks. Later on, France, Switzerland, Sweden and Australia started systems after our model. Italy is planning one, and Germany had a movement well advanced which the great war set back but did not destroy. Belgium's National park commission worked diligently throughout the war, and King Albert, after visiting our parks, gave one of his forests to become a national park.

The spirit is spreading even to the Orient, and official inquiries have recently reached our government from China and the Malay States.

We Must Protect Our Trade-Mark

The growing fame of our National Parks System abroad derives from the magnificence and variety of its scenery, its inclusion of only our greatest. It is no place for mere play-parks and camp grounds. The name means to the world only one thing: magnificence. It has become a national trade-mark which, world travel-agencies tell us, is fast overtaking in business possibilities the famous Swiss trade-mark, "The Alps." Both are synonymous with sublimity, but the American title means supremacy in all scenic land-forms, while the Alpine title stands for one only.

Steamship companies are working to fill eastbound ships with tourists from Europe, and, in their business-seeking, are finding the "National Parks of America" their top-line slogan.

America's Best is the World's Best

So it is that our National Parks System is fast becoming a national business asset of high degree; we must not weaken its trade-mark by adding to it any but the noblest scenic units the nation possesses. No nation competing in travel-getting can ever overtake us because all together they cannot equal our small group of scenic masterpieces in magnificence, variety and accessibility; nor in cheap living.

Our National Parks have another supremacy, also, which Canada, alone, can share; they are examples of the untouched primitive wilderness. They are National Museums of Nature in the true sense. Europe can never acquire that distinction and Europe is our competitor for the travel business of the world.

WITH the passing of Secretary Fall on March 4 will pass the greatest danger that our National Parks System has yet encountered. The chances of the success of his All-Year park bill, not yet reported by the House Committee on Indian Affairs, is now small, and his Appalachia Park bill can scarcely reach its first report. These are the two bills which embody the national parks policy which it was his ambition to substitute for the existing public policy that successive Congresses and Administrations have established during the last half century.

The Fall policy sought to debase the National Parks System to a merely recreational system and enormously expand it, while incidentally abolishing its scenic distinction and its complete conservation. "Wherever in the public lands I can find a pleasant place for local people to go up and camp," he said to the writer on July 19 last, "there I shall have a National Park."

"All National Parks or Nothing"

His mind recognized the concrete value of recreation but failed to comprehend the less tangible but enormously greater values which he purposed to sacrifice. He would listen to no other way of accomplishing his admirable recreational objective, although an easier, more effective and far more economical model was already in successful operation under the Agricultural Department, which he refused most positively to follow.

To our suggestion of such a system in addition to the National Parks System, he replied peremptorily: "No, they shall all be national parks or nothing."

Until last July, he could not even have heard of the Nation's historic national parks policy, for in his report of January 9 to the House Committee on Public Lands, in which he favored the Appalachia bill, he attacks it as a "theory" invented by the National Parks Association. The same report shows that even now he does not grasp this national policy. His mind is blank to its purpose, its meaning, its usefulness, and the attitude of the people toward it.

Fall a Very Dangerous Fighter

There are two reasons why he was so dangerous.

One was his position as Secretary of the Interior, which gave him absolute control over the National Park Service and stilled its voice. Congress is wisely much influenced by the opinions and wishes of Cabinet members concerning the Departments over which they preside, for under normal conditions theirs is the voice of the Administration. As with the Pueblo bill, Secretary Fall did not hesitate to urge his Mescalero bill before Congress as an Administration measure. No doubt he believed it was, for he appears to be one of those

who profoundly believe their own wishes, but the country, which implicitly trusted the President's sound American idealism, refused to believe the accuracy of this statement.

The second reason why Secretary Fall was so dangerous was his extraordinary individualism and precipitancy. Thinking his own solution of any problem the only rational one, his mind closed and he beat down opposition.

David Lawrence's Striking Portrait

That keen analyst of the press, David Lawrence, summarized him in a widely syndicated article under date of January 19 in these words:

"He found himself out of line on many administrative policies with other members of the Cabinet. His long years of aggressive warfare in the Senate have made of Albert Fall a fighter and an individualist. He is very like the star football player who can't somehow harmonize his play with the rest of the team. Whether the fault was with the speed of his colleagues or whether it was in the belligerency and positiveness of view of Mr. Fall himself, nobody but a psychoanalyst will ever be able to tell."

Mr. Fall can be very winning when he chooses. His forceful, picturesque personality carries far, and he uses it to the limit in gaining his objectives. His speech is fast, his manner is impetuous, and he becomes instantly aggressive at opposition. At these times his powerful face clouds to sternness, he sits forward in his chair, and pounds his statements home with gesticulation; or he throws his head back till he faces the ceiling while roaring with laughter at his opponent's replies.

He does not argue, because he does not listen. He controls absolutely the attention of all hearers, and deeply impresses many with his impetuous advocacy and assertion.

The Importance of Information

It is important thus to take account of Mr. Fall's personality because it explains his policies, and these he will leave behind him in the records of the Interior Department.

They should not be permitted to have future influence as precedents for Departmental consideration without full valuation of the mind, viewpoint, objectives and personality of their inventor.

The Fall Theory in Perspective

The announcement in February, 1921, of Mr. Fall's appointment to the Interior portfolio caused much apprehension throughout the country because of his Senatorial record on conservation. The war of business interests on national parks conservation was in its beginning in Congress, and the deepest anxiety was expressed from ocean to ocean concerning the new Secretary's attitude toward the defense.

But, after several months of silence, his first official action, which was the appointment of half a dozen non-political park superintendents nominated by Director Stephen T. Mather, was reassuring. The country hoped for the best.

A Very Dangerous Distinction

But his two reports on the Walsh bill for the damming of Yellowstone Lake, which followed, revealed a very dangerous point of view, for they distinguished sharply between the industrial use of national park waters under private control and under public control. He held that no dams should be built in national parks unless they were necessary, and when necessary that they should be built and operated by the national government.

In other words, he discouraged the industrial invasion of the existing national parks for some reason which he did not state, but not at all for the all-important reason that it would destroy the national policy of complete conservation. With him the all-important consideration was that the national

government and not some private corporation should be the agency to industrialize the park system.

The Extraordinary Mescalero Bill

When, early in the special session of last spring, Senator Bursum introduced the Mescalero Indian Reservation bill, which masked Secretary Fall's All-Year National Park project, we published its provisions and broadcasted the news throughout the country, but took no further action at that time. This proposal, which flauntingly violated every principle of established public policy, seemed to us, for that reason, easy enough to beat if it was ever seriously pushed.

But was it meant to be pushed? It did not seem possible.

We were not long in doubt about the seriousness of its purpose. When the Senate was absorbed in the tariff debate, at the end of a specially wearisome session in early July, Senator Bursum fished up this bill and did his appointed part with speed and judgment. The Senate passed it without knowing its purpose, and the rest was up to Secretary Fall.

In our interview with him on July 19, Mr. Fall solved the puzzle over which the country had pondered so long. He announced his purposes for the first time, as quoted in our second paragraph. It was not an unexciting interview.

But it was not until January 9 last, in his very long report to the House Committee on Public Lands, that Mr. Fall made a full public record of his national parks policy, advertising it there as his idea of "a great national policy."

The Appalachia Bill a Move to the Same Purpose

The Appalachia National Park which this report advocates will consist of five thousand acres on the summit of a mountain in the Appalachian foothills, which is offered as a gift to the nation. It is surrounded by a very beautiful country not unlike the Berkshires. Secretary Fall advocates making the mountain top a national park because it "would provide additional recreational facilities for the people." This park and All-Year, he says, have the same purpose.

Secretary Fall did not consult the National Park Service concerning it, but sent some one from his own office to look the ground over and report personally to him.

The Issue between Mr. Fall and the People

It will be seen that Mr. Fall's quarrel with the people of the country is not at all over the creation of additional recreational reserves in the public lands, but only over the way that this shall be accomplished. He insists that the historic complete conservation of the National Parks System shall be sacrificed and the magnificence of its exhibit diluted in the doing, and the people of the country insist that they shall not. That is the whole story.

Why Shouldn't the Nation have Both?

As a matter of fact, several ways are possible. The Forest Service has already solved the problem with a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of expense by equipping and administering many invaluable recreational areas in the National Forest at convenient points.

Why should not the nation have both systems?

There appears no reason why bureaus in the Interior Department, also, should not be authorized to set apart and administer recreational and camping-out reserves. The nation needs them.

In addition to the National Parks System, whose specialized purposes and national values must be preserved apart, Congress can formally establish a great inclusive system of Federal Recreational Reserves, with a common policy for each bureau to apply in its own way to the recreational areas within its own jurisdiction. The Forest Service has already, in fact, begun it.

SPOTTED PARK NOW IN THE MILL OF CONGRESS

Summoned to Help in the House Hearings, Secretary Fall Abandons every Point except title of "National Park"—but in the end that would yield him all.

Attack of the National Parks System's Defenders

HEARINGS before the Indian Affairs Committee of the House on Secretary Fall's Mescalero Indian Reservation bill are concluded, and the country awaits with deep interest its report to the House. There were two hearings. On December 14, Richard F. Burgess of El Paso, who was unofficially understood to speak for Secretary Fall, urged All-Year on the ground that the Mescalero Indian Reservation was the only possible national park location south of northern New Mexico and east of Arizona.

Describing the Mescalero Reservation as equal in scenery to several existing national parks, he explained that the creation now of these little spots as a national park was expected to result in landing the entire reservation a generation or two hence when the Indians died off. The Mescalero-Apaches, he said, were rapidly decreasing. As the bill gave them their lands in severalty and provided that they could not convey them to others than Indians, these park spots would become the nuclei to which he hoped future Congresses would add the allotments as vacated by death.

Secretary Fall to the Rescue

At the main hearing, which began January 11, 1923, the case for the bill went so badly that its proponents called for help, and Secretary Fall hurried to the capitol and talked for three hours, chiefly in defense of himself against the gossip started all over the country by his public report to the Senate Committee on June 14 last in which he had stated that his home ranch adjoined the Mescalero Indian Reservation. He described to the Committee in great detail his properties adjoining the reservation, and said that a cattle and sheep ranch would be hurt rather than helped by having a national park next door to it.

Under the questioning of the committeemen, he abandoned one by one, as all his predecessors had done in the morning session, those features of the proposed park to which we had all objected, even the outlying reservoir, bad lands and gypsum desert spots. But he stood tight when it came to creating the reservation spots a recreational reserve under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They must be "a national park or nothing," he declared, and stuck to it. Incidentally he launched a vigorous attack on the National Parks Association.

Senator Bursum Forgets

Senator Bursum's forgetfulness of the provisions of his bill aroused repeated merriment and when one Representative asked him to tell the Committee "what the purpose of the Senate was in passing the bill," and, considerably upset, he replied that he "could not tell that," everybody laughed, including, finally, the Senator himself.

Mr. Bursum was ill-at-ease throughout, and an easy mark for the keen questioners. He stood behind his chair, leaning on its back, and endeavored to retire in favor of "Mr. Thompson, who knows all those things." Mr. Thompson, when he was finally permitted to testify, described himself as from Las Cruces, and said that he was present at the invitation of Senator Bursum.

The Case Against All-Year

Already a nation-wide protest of remarkable size and geographical distribution against admitting All-Year to the National Parks System had reached the committee by mail and telegraph. The protest from New Mexico broke all State records for size, quality, representativeness and dignity.

The attack at the hearing was led by Dr. George Bird Grinnell, chairman of the National Parks Committee, which

is a council of 28 important organizations from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Dr. Grinnell also represented the New York Zoological Society and the American Museum of Natural History.

Others speaking against making All-Year a national park were John B. Burnham, President of the American Game Protective Association, William B. Greeley, Conservation Chairman of the Campfire Club of America, Barrington Moore, representing the Ecological Society of America, J. Horace McFarland, President of the American Civic Association, Harris A. Reynolds, secretary of the Massachusetts Forestry Association, representing the New England Conference for National Parks Protection, Charles Sheldon of the Boone and Crockett Club, Mrs. Francis E. Whitley, Conservation Chairman of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and Robert Sterling Yard, executive secretary of the National Parks Association.

Governmental Basis of Complete Conservation

"The public policy of complete conservation," the executive secretary of the National Parks Association told the Committee, "was originated and many times confirmed by Congress, and nurtured by Government. A national park has never been defined in law, but when the first park of this system, the Yellowstone, was created in 1872, it was thoroughly understood by the people and by the Congress of that time that it was to be a reservation of nature, a national museum preserving for all time this wonderful region in its original condition of nature.

"The Interior Department administration to which it was assigned at that time administered the park according to that idea, namely, that it was to be preserved in a state of nature. Since then every national park which has been added to the system, and there are nineteen now, has been added with the same purpose in view; even the language of their organic acts have in some part repeated that of the original national park, the Yellowstone. Every administration of the Interior Department which has administered these parks since has administered them upon the policy begun by the one which administered the first park. The administrative branch of the Government, therefore, has established this public policy by fifty years of unbroken practice.

"So also the legislative branch of the National Government. The Congresses to which have been presented bills which would abrogate and destroy the principle of complete conservation have declined to pass them. So, during these same fifty years, we find this public policy negatively defined and confirmed by Congress.

Nature Conservation a National Creed

"There is no public policy not defined by law which nevertheless is more fully established than that of the complete conservation of the national park system as a museum system for the use and study and education of this and future generations. We are defending a national governmental creation. In early years it was the Government alone which developed this public policy. In recent years, under the teachings of Muir, Grinnell, Roosevelt, and others famed in the history of nature conservation, the people of the whole country have massed themselves behind the historic governmental policy.

"Nature conservation has become a national creed, and the completely conserved national park system, the gift of a truly representative Government, is its chief exhibit,

It has become thoroughly understood by many millions of people, and is being defended by several thousand organizations of many kinds. The majority of public-spirited organizations to-day, besides their main purposes, include nature conservation and national parks defense among their stated objectives."

Why All-Year Must Not Become a National Park

The Association opposed making All-Year a national park for seven definite reasons:

"First, because the spots of which it is composed do not possess, individually or collectively, the scenic qualities which the public policy and practice of half a century has established as requisite to national parkhood. Our whole West is replete with magnificent scenery, and we can only hope to include in this system of museums the greatest examples of our national scenery. Each national park is individual and different, meaning something very definite to science and education. As a system, they illustrate, or soon will illustrate, the whole range of American scenery, and of the geologic and biologic elements of the original American wilderness. This representative system is nearing completion. We should not have too many museums; but they should all represent the best that America can show, each of its own kind.

"Second, because a group of small, isolated spots, chosen because they are good camping places, cannot make a park in any national park sense.

"Third, because the proposed park is fundamentally wrong from the administrative point of view. To place the park spots under one bureau over-lapping the authority of another bureau and the Indians free to use them at will, and the connecting roads under two bureaus, will result in immediate and constant local clashes of authority which cannot fail to affect the relations of the bureaus in Washington. To be effective organization must conform to human nature. The Indian bureau alone should administer these recreation spots if created recreational areas.

"Fourth, because the outlying spots, the reclamation reservoir, bad lands and gypsum desert, make proper administration impossible without building perhaps two hundred miles of highway through the intervening desert, which would cost the United States enormously more than any possible value they would have to the nation for park purposes.

"Fifth, because, if these outlying spots should be eliminated, the 2,000 acres remaining in the Mescalero Reservation, even if continuous in area, are far too small for a national park in the conception of our national parks policy, unless such an area were created for the express purpose of conserving some extraordinary natural feature, as for instance, the General Grant National Park. That is a national park of only four square miles, but it is justified by the fact that it conserves a grove of ancient giant sequoias of inestimable worth.

"Sixth, because delegating authority to the Secretary of the Interior to add to the National Park System areas of his own choice negatives the careful policy of Congress in its previous creation of every one of the nineteen national parks so far established. Congress has been exceedingly particular to retain the authority to define national park boundaries, and no park boundaries can be changed without express permission of Congress. This is very much too important a power for Congress to depute.

"Seventh, because authorizing the leasing of areas for industrial uses of any kind strikes a blow at the very heart of the principle upon which our National Parks System is founded, and the power to do this should rest in no other hands than those of Congress."

National Parks Committee Protests

Barrington Moore presented the following resolutions passed by the National Parks Committee:

"Whereas Congress has set apart from time to time during the last 50 years various public areas of supreme scenic magnificence or extraordinary manifestations of nature under the title of national parks and has distinguished these from national forests by providing that they shall not be used for any industrial purposes, thereby creating a national policy greatly treasured by the whole people; and

"Whereas the national parks committee heartily favors the creation of State and Federal recreational reserves, which even though they do not measure up to the scenic standard of national parks and if necessary may be subject to certain industrial uses, can not fail to benefit the people in their respective neighborhoods, touring motorists and campers; and

"Whereas there are bills before Congress or about to be offered to Congress to introduce into the national parks system recreational areas of minor scenic quality or in commercial use; and

"Whereas the admission of any one such area into the national parks system will create a precedent which, under our form of government, can not fail to infect all other parks in the system with commercialism, destroying the recognized public policy of half a century: Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the national parks committee warns the American people and their representatives in Congress against bills to establish national parks lacking in scenic importance or sullied by commercialism."

Two Million Women Protest

The General Federation of Women's Clubs presented the following resolutions:

"Whereas the Mescalero Indian Reservation bill (S. 3519) proposes adding to the National Park System a group of areas known as 'the All-Year national park,' which, however admirable they may be for park uses of other kinds, do not in any respect live up to the national parks' standard as established by the public policy of half a century; and

"Whereas the General Federation of Women's Clubs for many years has defended the principles under which the National Park System has been upbuilt and conserved: Therefore be it

"Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs protest against the admission of the All-Year national park to the National Park System, and against the use, if created a recreational area, of the term 'national park' in its official title."

AZTEC RUIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

The celebrated prehistoric pueblo in northern New Mexico known as the Aztec Ruin has been deeded to the United States by the American Museum of Natural History, and President Harding proclaimed it a National Monument on January 24.

"It is a large E-shaped structure of approximately 500 rooms," says a bulletin of the National Park Service. "The first story is standing and 24 rooms are complete in that the original ceilings are intact. Many of the second story walls are standing and in some cases part of the third also. The ceilings are supported by large beams, cut and dressed with stone tools, and are an interesting exhibit of what could be done even in the Stone Age. The walls are of sandstone with dressed faces and reasonably plumb. As examples of prehistoric masonry they take high rank.

"The plot of land bearing the Ruin was presented through the generosity of Mr. Archer M. Huntington. The American Museum has been enabled, through Mr. Huntington's interest in the Ruin, to systematically excavate it during the past five years, clearing out the rooms, capping the standing walls, and studying its antiquity and the place of its builders in the aboriginal history of our country."

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